

Items of Interest.

—Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, North and South Carolina and Tennessee have by far the smallest number of saloons in proportion to population.

—The center of the area of the United States, Alaska excluded, is in the Northern part of Kansas. According to the last census, the center of population is more than thirteen degrees east of there—twenty miles east of Columbus, Ind.

—Channey M. Depen, in a speech before Republicans in New York, a few days ago, said that he was not opposed to local option; for he was confident that on a popular vote a proposition to have open saloons on Sunday would be overwhelmingly defeated.

—It said that an old colored native of Virginia, by the name of George Brown, has a certificate from his former master, setting forth that he was born in 1764. Brown lives in New Orleans. He says that he blacked George Washington's boots and lighted his cigars.

—One of the most wildspread fires in the history of Augusta, Ga., visited that city on Oct. 25. The flames started in a lumber yard in the outskirts of the city and swept over several squares of houses. This renders several hundred people homeless, and caused a loss of \$75,000.

—All of the storekeepers of the Jewish colony in the north end section of the city of Boston have been notified by the Police Board that they must hereafter close their places of business on Sunday. It is said that a test case will be prepared to settle the question as to the constitutionality of the law as applied to Jews who observe Saturday as the Sabbath.

—A remarkable lake has been discovered on the island of Kildine, in the Arctic Ocean, by Mr. Herzenstein, a Russian naturalist. The lake is completely separated from the sea by a narrow strip of land, and the water of the surface, which is fresh, and flows from springs in a neighboring marsh, is inhabited by fresh-water animals. The discoverer was struck, however, by the finding of an exclusively marine fish—the common cod. Further observation has shown that under the superficial layer of fresh water the lake is salt, and support sponges, sea anemones and other marine animals. The muddy bottom exhales sulphuretted hydrogen, and is not inhabited. A regular ebb and flow of the lake, though much less than the tides of the adjacent sea, indicates some subterranean connection between sea and lake.

—It is said that Bill Nye, the humorist, was egged at Paterson, N. J., on the evening of Oct. 29, because when he appeared on the rostrum to fill an engagement to lecture he was silly drunk. Since that time he is utterly broken down, on account of the disgrace, and has canceled all his engagements to lecture. He declares he will never appear on the stage again.

—The city of Keokuk, Iowa, has passed an ordinance prohibiting the circulation of "any book, pamphlet, magazine, newspaper, circular, or other publication whatsoever which is devoted to the publication or is principally made up of criminal news, police reports, or accounts of immoral deeds of lust or crime," and providing for the punishment of the offender by a fine of from five to one hundred dollars. It is also made a misdemeanor to exhibit any of the forbidden publications in the view of a minor or to employ any minor to distribute them. The Gate City speaks of the ordinance as one that has long been needed. Would that all other cities would pass and vigorously enforce a similar ordinance.—*Ex.*

THE INFLUENCE OF A GOOD HOME.

I know how much I owe personally to the fact of being brought up in a home where I was taught to appreciate the greatness of righteous authority, the vastness of its meaning, the advantage of submitting to it, and the serious risk of resisting it, writes Rev. Chas. H. Parkhurst. No anarchist could ever have graduated from the home I was born, loved, and cherished in. Such experience makes me pity the children who know no discipline but that of caresses and sweetmeats, and makes me more than pity the parents who have neither the discernment in their mental constitution nor the iron in their moral constitution to perceive that nothing which a child can know or can win can begin to take the place of the sense of superior authority, and of the holy right of that authority to be respected, revered, and obeyed. The moral strength of a man is measured pretty accurately by the cordial reverence with which he regards whatsoever has the right to call itself his master. Estimated by this criterion, the average American boy is a discouraging type of humanity, and is a severe reflection upon the crude attempts at manhood manufacture evinced by the typical American home. If our homes cannot turn out children that will respect authority, there will be no authority in a great while either at home, in the state, or anywhere else, that will be worth their respecting.

Our Dead.

ROBERTS.—In the Bethel congregation, Perry county, Ohio, sister Amanda Roberts departed this life October 21, 1895. She was born October 25, 1849. The days of her pilgrimage on earth numbered 45 years, 11 months, and 26 days. She was a faithful and earnest Christian, and a member of the Bethel church from its organization. She leaves a daughter, parents and two brothers to mourn their loss. The funeral services were conducted by the writer. May the grace of God keep those who mourn and bring them a happily united family to enjoy Heaven forever. J. ALLEN MILLER.

FOSTER.—Benjamin Franklin Foster was born in Perry county, O.; removed to Warsaw in 1888 where he died Nov. 5, 1895. Aged 45 years, 10 months and 29 days. He was a good whole-hearted man, timetried and faithful in the cause. Our loss is great. C. F. YODER.

Matrimonial.

WEILER—HEPLER.—At the residence of Wm. Kiefer at Pleasant Home, Ohio, on November 10, Mr. T. O. Weiler and Miss Minnie Kepler; both of Congress, Ohio, were joined in marriage by the writer. W. K.

Pleasant Home, O.

MUST DO SOMETHING.

"Mamma," said Jack, "may I go out and play?"

"No; you must sit still where you are." Pause.

"Ma, can't I go down in the kitchen?"

"You may not. I want you to sit perfectly quiet."

Another pause.

"Mamma, mayn't I sit on the floor and play marbles?"

"Now, my dear boy, I have told you twice that I want you to sit just where you are and be quiet, and I mean exactly what I say."

Third pause.

"Ma—may I—grow?"—*Harper's Young People.*

THE philologists who have failed to find any connection between the words "saloon" and "hell" should call on an Englishman that we once heard to help them out. On being asked how he spelled "saloon" he promptly replied, "Hi spells hit with a hess and a ha and a hell, two hos, and a hen." It will be noticed that he got "hell" almost in the middle of "saloon," exactly where it belongs.—*Ex.*